



Alberta's International Merchandise Exports

January to December 2008

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Highlights

Overview

In 2008, Alberta's international goods exports grew by 33.2% from 2007 to \$109.0 billion. Substantial increases were noted for crops (such as wheat and canola), sulphur, coal, oil and gas field machinery, and crude oil. Exports were lower for primary metals, such as nickel, and wood products, especially oriented strand board (OSB) and lumber. Export volumes fell by an estimated one per cent in 2008, primarily due to lower volumes of gas and chemicals.

In the fourth quarter of 2008, the value of exports grew by 16.3% from the same quarter last year, to an estimated \$25.0 billion. This increase was largely the result of higher exports of crude oil, canola, sulphur, coal, and oil and gas field machinery.

Major Commodities

Higher prices and volumes fuelled exports of crude oil, liquefied propane and canola in 2008. Volume increases led to export gains for beef and oil and gas field machinery. Exports of natural gas, polymers of ethylene, wheat, sulphur, coal and urea advanced on higher prices. Lower prices and volumes caused declines in shipments of lumber and OSB. Exports of nickel fell on lower prices and of live cattle, light oils (such as gasoline) and canola oil on lower volumes.

Exports by Industry

The *Mining and Energy* sector registered strong growth of 43.9%, as a result of higher exports of sulphur (up 306.3%), crude oil (up 69.4%), coal (up 63.3%), and natural gas and gas liquids (up 11.5%). *Primary Agriculture* rose 34.1%, because of a jump in crop shipments: canola and wheat rose 84.1% and 48.3% respectively. *Manufacturing* exports increased by 6.9% due to large gains for machinery (up 29.7%), pulp and paper (up 16.9%), plastic and rubber products (up 16.7%) and food, feed and beverages (up 14.2%). Wood product exports tumbled 30.6%.

Exports by Country

Aside from declines in exports to the Netherlands and Taiwan, Alberta's top 10 markets registered solid gains in exports. Exports to Brazil, Australia, Mexico, Japan and the U.S. increased by 224.8%, 97.6%, 51.3%, 39.4% and 35.1% respectively. Exports to Brazil advanced on higher exports of sulphur, potassium chloride and wheat. An increase in the exports of parts of sulphur and compressors caused exports to Australia to rise. Exports to Mexico rose due to an increase in the export of canola and parts of boring and sinking machinery. Large increases in the exports of canola, cobalt and coal boosted Alberta exports to Japan. The 35.1% increase in exports to the U.S., Alberta's largest export market, was due to sizeable gains for crude oil, natural gas, propane, sulphur and chemicals, such as anhydrous ammonia, urea and ethylene polymers.

ALBERTA'S INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE EXPORTS TO TOP 50 COUNTRIES/MARKETS

Countries/Markets	Fourth Quarter			January to December		
	2007 (\$ '000)	2008 (\$ '000)	% Change	2007 (\$ '000)	2008 (\$ '000)	% Change
United States	18,603,050	22,047,743	18.5%	70,879,444	95,746,987	35.1%
China	741,837	472,835	-36.3%	2,810,375	3,048,891	8.5%
Japan	350,842	532,549	51.8%	1,458,966	2,033,539	39.4%
Mexico	202,507	332,744	64.3%	720,023	1,089,167	51.3%
Korea, South	129,226	132,349	2.4%	463,249	515,069	11.2%
Brazil	41,065	38,972	-5.1%	143,121	464,799	224.8%
Australia	73,024	84,817	16.1%	209,393	413,819	97.6%
Netherlands	145,962	98,018	-32.8%	565,599	342,357	-39.5%
Indonesia	72,118	67,325	-6.6%	217,531	302,224	38.9%
Taiwan	71,242	42,601	-40.2%	250,187	231,667	-7.4%
United Arab Emirates	47,246	76,800	62.6%	150,833	230,855	53.1%
South Africa	26,758	37,893	41.6%	105,826	226,966	114.5%
Russia	43,471	68,829	58.3%	210,995	213,772	1.3%
United Kingdom	59,798	50,176	-16.1%	248,204	211,248	-14.9%
Singapore	99,232	27,945	-71.8%	247,104	190,299	-23.0%
Iran	1,834	123,983	n/a	16,424	184,866	n/a
Belgium	53,392	42,276	-20.8%	234,285	172,972	-26.2%
Pakistan	21,268	24,178	13.7%	102,218	157,365	54.0%
Italy	44,680	35,669	-20.2%	201,689	155,753	-22.8%
Saudi Arabia	52,570	23,091	-56.1%	90,918	146,650	61.3%
Venezuela	30,428	42,998	41.3%	102,888	142,335	38.3%
Chile	33,934	27,384	-19.3%	74,333	131,739	77.2%
Algeria	10,254	19,007	85.4%	65,668	114,455	74.3%
Sri Lanka	18,604	19,023	2.3%	73,328	114,254	55.8%
Malaysia	23,613	13,452	-43.0%	85,893	114,167	32.9%
Hong Kong	46,028	21,675	-52.9%	132,804	106,962	-19.5%
Kazakhstan	10,994	10,494	-4.5%	40,730	96,634	137.3%
France	16,523	24,191	46.4%	80,366	93,892	16.8%
Colombia	26,251	29,353	11.8%	77,971	93,431	19.8%
Thailand	18,135	21,145	16.6%	77,181	92,559	19.9%
India	52,948	18,077	-65.9%	109,256	85,449	-21.8%
Israel	15,830	16,584	4.8%	34,035	83,770	146.1%
Cuba	15,631	14,016	-10.3%	76,785	83,286	8.5%
Germany	26,962	28,943	7.3%	125,618	82,023	-34.7%
Egypt	21,030	24,497	16.5%	43,346	80,749	86.3%
New Zealand	22,053	17,849	-19.1%	60,384	80,531	33.4%
Sudan	22,212	16,584	-25.3%	75,849	74,999	-1.1%
Bangladesh	18,383	12,410	-32.5%	90,683	73,142	-19.3%
Philippines	15,838	16,936	6.9%	66,743	69,834	4.6%
Oman	4,496	33,618	647.7%	22,613	66,654	194.8%
Peru	7,215	7,149	-0.9%	42,212	60,551	43.4%
Vietnam	11,248	6,799	-39.6%	64,983	55,776	-14.2%
Iraq	8,561	4,170	-51.3%	85,579	53,149	-37.9%
Kuwait	1,482	16,798	n/a	21,807	50,518	131.7%
Spain	11,986	12,655	5.6%	72,048	45,445	-36.9%
Ecuador	12,996	8,748	-32.7%	46,997	43,986	-6.4%
Switzerland	7,046	10,939	55.3%	31,142	41,898	34.5%
Argentina	12,680	9,893	-22.0%	48,658	41,890	-13.9%
Libya	2,331	9,318	299.7%	18,367	38,594	110.1%
Norway	11,907	9,424	-20.9%	36,990	38,177	3.2%
All Other Countries	142,625	189,768	33.1%	22,624	35,142	55.3%
Total Exports	21,561,348	25,074,689	16.3%	81,872,999	109,038,562	33.2%

ALBERTA EXPORTS TO ALL MARKETS BY INDUSTRY

EXPORTS BY INDUSTRY	Fourth Quarter			January to December		
	2007 (\$ '000)	2008 (\$ '000)	% Change	2007 (\$ '000)	2008 (\$ '000)	% Change
Primary Agriculture	1,029,231	1,251,701	21.6%	3,695,953	4,955,270	34.1%
Crops	800,305	1,091,257	36.4%	2,858,233	4,281,892	49.8%
Livestock	228,926	160,444	-29.9%	837,720	673,378	-19.6%
Primary Forestry, Fishing & Trapping	739	991	34.1%	3,691	4,304	16.6%
Mining & Energy	14,915,648	17,785,191	19.2%	55,444,472	79,777,433	43.9%
Crude Oil*	7,992,637	11,191,086	40.0%	28,210,889	47,783,865	69.4%
Natural Gas & Natural Gas Liquids	6,629,862	6,118,237	-7.7%	26,283,236	29,310,209	11.5%
Coal	96,533	223,205	131.2%	404,255	660,192	63.3%
Sulphur	173,929	226,335	30.1%	466,764	1,896,601	306.3%
Other Mining & Energy	22,687	26,328	16.1%	79,327	126,566	59.5%
Manufacturing	5,391,943	5,827,922	8.1%	21,850,725	23,367,885	6.9%
Chemicals	1,929,785	1,939,732	0.5%	7,177,919	8,006,222	11.5%
Machinery	689,839	973,520	41.1%	2,699,488	3,500,904	29.7%
Food, Feed & Beverage	622,329	812,921	30.6%	2,719,622	3,104,917	14.2%
Primary Metal Products	526,911	329,281	-37.5%	2,310,119	1,823,909	-21.0%
Paper Products & Wood Pulp	311,464	398,625	28.0%	1,351,466	1,580,198	16.9%
Petroleum & Coal Products	335,204	359,832	7.3%	1,308,808	1,423,226	8.7%
Computer & Electronic Products	243,951	205,946	-15.6%	1,079,743	906,992	-16.0%
Fabricated Metal Products	201,881	223,924	10.9%	794,592	791,754	-0.4%
Wood Products	167,648	168,626	0.6%	886,311	614,970	-30.6%
Transportation Equipment	109,017	144,475	32.5%	507,160	543,711	7.2%
Electrical Equipment, App. & Comp.	74,939	83,415	11.3%	292,525	296,290	1.3%
Plastics & Rubber Products	65,758	57,132	-13.1%	234,530	273,811	16.7%
Furniture & Related Products	48,660	46,758	-3.9%	201,786	185,978	-7.8%
Non-Metallic Mineral Products	21,166	26,025	23.0%	101,837	103,132	1.3%
Other Manufacturing	43,390	57,708	33.0%	184,820	211,872	14.6%
Other Exports	223,787	208,883	-6.7%	878,157	933,670	6.3%
TOTAL	21,561,348	25,074,689	16.3%	81,872,999	109,038,562	33.2%

ALBERTA'S TOP 50 COMMODITY EXPORTS TO THE WORLD

Commodities	Fourth Quarter			January to December		
	2007 (\$ '000)	2008 (\$ '000)	% Change	2007 (\$ '000)	2008 (\$ '000)	% Change
Crude Oil	7,992,219	11,191,070	40.0%	28,208,083	47,783,773	69.4%
Natural Gas	6,097,486	5,536,786	-9.2%	24,708,910	27,290,038	10.4%
Polymers of ethylene nes, in primary forms	453,857	453,576	-0.1%	1,747,243	2,040,756	16.8%
Sulphur	173,929	226,335	30.1%	466,764	1,896,601	306.3%
Wheat (other than durum wheat)	341,711	440,575	28.9%	1,261,447	1,871,077	48.3%
Propane, liquefied	489,326	518,589	6.0%	1,409,635	1,804,396	28.0%
Canola	232,245	443,940	91.2%	869,092	1,599,853	84.1%
Ethylene glycol	435,632	217,650	-50.0%	1,272,661	1,237,149	-2.8%
Polyethylene Having A Specific Gravity > 0.94	272,572	239,484	-12.1%	1,031,780	990,272	-4.0%
Parts for boring or sinking machinery, nes	137,989	238,272	72.7%	498,437	834,988	67.5%
Meat of bovine animals, boneless, fresh or chilled	151,478	221,977	46.5%	704,261	804,731	14.3%
Nickel, unwrought	267,191	126,376	-52.7%	1,172,273	679,725	-42.0%
Anhydrous ammonia	82,518	221,716	168.7%	338,947	662,685	95.5%
Chemical woodpulp, coniferous	125,298	172,056	37.3%	587,002	655,322	11.6%
Bituminous coal	91,924	221,374	140.8%	397,207	646,050	62.6%
Heavy oils (not crude), e.g. diesel	151,209	142,759	-5.6%	602,613	631,493	4.8%
Urea	84,305	184,827	119.2%	395,522	628,797	59.0%
Low value and confidential commodities	141,647	161,019	13.7%	586,225	625,702	6.7%
Bovine animals, live, nes	199,514	133,658	-33.0%	711,578	558,001	-21.6%
Chemical woodpulp, non-coniferous	106,179	130,513	22.9%	408,559	546,892	33.9%
Styrene	126,554	130,327	3.0%	561,812	530,303	-5.6%
Ethylene, popylene, butylene and butadiene, liquified	68,998	117,609	70.5%	287,461	381,859	32.8%
Lumber, coniferous, over 6mm thick	83,112	90,473	8.9%	430,333	344,342	-20.0%
Boring or sinking machinery, not self-propelled	80,932	70,915	-12.4%	279,105	333,521	19.5%
Acyclic hydrocarbons, saturated	105,318	84,069	-20.2%	319,415	319,170	-0.1%
Cobalt, unwrought	73,173	69,977	-4.4%	270,690	315,480	16.5%
Air/gas pumps, compressors and fans, nes	60,804	77,683	27.8%	230,269	286,478	24.4%
Durum wheat	56,467	82,818	46.7%	160,252	272,750	70.2%
Polyethylene having a specific gravity < 0.94	73,100	45,094	-38.3%	243,627	259,142	6.4%
Turbopropellers not exceeding 1,100 Kw	35,147	73,169	108.2%	186,185	253,339	36.1%
Canola oil and fractions, low erucic acid, crude	57,681	37,320	-35.3%	309,882	252,831	-18.4%
Pipe/oil line, >16", iron/steel, long sub arc weld	85,524	13	-100.0%	414,366	245,998	-40.6%
Malt	38,627	66,477	72.1%	136,709	243,969	78.5%
Barley	85,073	45,629	-46.4%	157,187	243,416	54.9%
Acyclic hydrocarbons, unsaturated, nes	71,201	51,107	-28.2%	269,495	233,357	-13.4%
Machines/mechanical appl w. individual function	49,029	65,405	33.4%	151,324	230,365	52.2%
Potatoes, prepared, frozen	48,157	60,003	24.6%	221,124	218,063	-1.4%
Butanes, liquefied	32,362	62,686	93.7%	130,173	214,799	65.0%
Semichemical woodpulp	47,559	44,328	-6.8%	193,669	203,833	5.2%
Light petroleum oil preparation, e.g. motor gasoline	84,968	53,651	-36.9%	278,491	197,244	-29.2%
Taps, cocks for pipes, vats incl. thermo control	51,948	53,534	3.1%	192,354	180,892	-6.0%
Engine and motor parts, nes	32,374	58,864	81.8%	135,100	176,745	30.8%
Rapeseed/colza oil & fractions of low erucic acid, nes	33,024	47,210	43.0%	115,144	170,127	47.8%
Pork, nes, fresh or chilled	33,020	45,536	37.9%	163,703	157,090	-4.0%
Ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers, primary forms	29,639	36,719	23.9%	111,623	156,317	40.0%
Casing and tubing, iron or steel	23,245	48,161	107.2%	73,346	155,969	112.6%
Conola oilcake & low erucic acid, nes	26,102	33,391	27.9%	95,751	145,132	51.6%
Parts of pumps for liquids	24,965	38,235	53.2%	135,231	135,998	0.6%
Petroleum bitumen	20,530	16,903	-17.7%	63,682	132,278	107.7%
Surveying instruments and appliances, nes	56,249	18,001	-68.0%	198,542	130,741	-34.1%
TOTAL ABOVE	19,723,108	22,947,859	16.4%	73,894,282	100,909,851	36.6%
TOTAL	21,561,348	25,074,689	16.3%	81,872,999	109,038,562	33.2%



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- Monthly Economic Review
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